

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 STR-07 EB-08 FTC-01 /027 R

DRAFTED BY AGRICULTURE:RSCHROETER:JT395-6127 2/21/78

APPROVED BY STR:JSTARKEY

SDA:JRIESZ

STATE:JCUNNINGHAM

USDA:TOYLOE

STATE:DBROWN

STR:SSCHWAB

STR:SSCHWAB

-----113184 220637Z /14

P 220213Z FEB 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045176

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: JA

SUBJECT: STRAUSS/USHIBA FOLLOWUP: BEEF TEAM

REF: TOKYO 2712

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO INFORM GOJ, AT APPROPRIATE HIGH LEVEL, OF OUR DISMAY OVER NEWS THAT MAF OFFICIALS WILL HAVE VIRTUALLY NO TIME TO MEET WITH BEEF TEAM WEEK OF MARCH 12. THIS NEWS IS PARTICULARLY DISTURBING BECAUSE TEAM PREVIOUSLY HAD TO POSTPONE PLANS TO ARRIVE IN FEBRUARY ON ACCOUNT OF INVOLVEMENT OF MAF OFFICIALS IN BUDGET HEARINGS. IN PLANNING FOR MARCH VISIT, WE HAD THOUGHT THAT WITH ALMOST ONE MONTH'S ADVANCE NOTICE, GOJ CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE ADEQUATE TIME TO SCHEDULE MEETINGS WITHOUT UNDULY DISRUPTING OTHER WORK.

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2. ALTHOUGH MEETINGS WITH TRADE REPRESENTATIVES WOULD BE USEFUL, PRINCIPAL MEETINGS SHOULD BE WITH MAF AND LIPC PURPOSE OF VISIT, AFTER ALL, IS TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION ON HOW GOJ INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT AGREEMENT TO INCREASE IMPORTS OF HIGH QUALITY BEEF BY 10,000 TONS. WE PRESUME THAT ONLY MAF AND LIPC OFFICIALS CAN PROVIDE SUCH

CLARIFICATION.

3. MOTAI'S FORMULATION END OF PARA 3 OF REFTTEL ON TEAM'S VISIT SOUNDS LIKE FOOT DRAGGING. MARCH DATE WAS SET ON BASIS THAT GOJ WOULD BE PREPARED TO IMPLEMENT ITS IMPORT PROGRAM FOR HIGH QUALITY BEEF NEXT FISCAL YEAR WHICH BEGINS APRIL 1. POSTPONEMENT OF TEAM VISIT TO NEXT FISCAL YEAR, OR FAILURE OF TEAM TO MEET WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS AND TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION ON IMPORT PROGRAM, WOULD CERTAINLY SERVE TO INCREASE SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH GOJ INTENDS TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON STRAUSS/USHIBA AGREEMENT.

4. PLEASE INFORM OF GOJ REACTION TO ABOVE POINTS. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LIVESTOCK, IMPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE045176
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: 6127 2/21/78
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780079-0559
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780227/aaaaawjw.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8d0e2bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AGRE
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TOKYO 2712
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3518262
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STRAUSS/USHIBA FOLLOWUP: BEEF TEAM
TAGS: EPAP, JA, US
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/8d0e2bd2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014